

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00735 181040Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
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O R 181006Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6595
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0735

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, OAU, ET, SO, SU
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: STATE 42000

1. DCM CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18. IN ABSENCE TOP THREE FONMIN OFFICIALS, HE

DISCUSSED PROPOSED UNSC ACTION IN DETAIL WITH AMERICAS DEPARTMENT HEAD RASHID KHIDR AND MORE BRIEFLY WITH ACTING DIRECTOR POLAFFS NUR ALI SULEIMAN. KHIDR TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND WILL BRIEF SENIOR SUDANGOV OFFICIALS.

2. KHIDR'S PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT PROPOSED UNSC RESOLUTION AND IDEAS WHICH IT EXPRESSES ARE SOUND. HE SAID OAU CLEARLY HAS DONE ABOUT ALL IT CAN FOR NOW, AND HE THINKS OAU MEMBERS WILL, ON BALANCE, WELCOME UN ROLE WHICH, IN ANY CASE, HE EXPECTS WOULD COMPLEMENT RATHER THAN UNDERMINE OAU EFFORTS. KHIDR SAID HE PERSONALLY THINKS TIME HAS LONG SINCE PASSED WHEN OGADEN WAS MERELY REGIONAL PROBLEM, AND HE THEREFORE WELCOMES INTERNATIONALIZATION OF EFFORTS DISCUSS PROBLEM AND ATTEMPT SOLVE IT BY PEACEFUL MEANS. SULEIMAN, IN GENERAL, AGREED WITH KHIDR, BUT HE WAS MORE SENSITIVE TO GENERAL AFRICAN DISTASTE FOR DISCUSSING INTERNAL AFRICAN PROBLEM IN PUBLIC. NEVERTHELESS, HE AGREES TIME HAS COME FOR UNSC ACTION.

3. BOTH KHIDR AND SULEIMAN STRESSED NEED TO HAVE COMPLEMENTARY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG VARIOUS PARTIES INVOLVED OR INTERESTED IN MATTER, INCLUDING, SAY, BETWEEN SUDAN AND SOMALIA. HOWEVER, THEY STRESSED NEED FOR US-SOVIET BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. SULEIMAN INDICATED THAT CAREFUL BILATERAL SIDE TALKS BETWEEN US AND SOVIETS NEEDED TO PREVENT SOVIETS FROM SCUTTling ANY USEFUL UN SECRET

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INITIATIVE.

4. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, DESPITE THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AT TURN OF EVENTS IN HORN, SUDANESE HAVE GENERALLY REALISTIC VIEW OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OGADEN AND WHAT CAN BE DONE. USG AND SUDANGOV VIEWS ABOUT HOW BEST TO PROCEED NOW THAT EVENTS HAVE EVOLVED AS THEY HAVE ARE CLOSE. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE SENIOR SUDANGOV OFFICIALS SHARE KHIDR/SULEIMAN VIEWS AND WOULD SUPPORT UNSC INITIATIVE PROPOSED REFTEL. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SUDANESE RECOGNIZE THERE NOT MUCH OAU CAN OR WILL DO, THAT OGADEN BY NOW IS MUCH MORE THAN REGIONAL, INTERNAL AFRICAN MATTER AND THAT BEST WAY TO PROCEED NOW TO QUOTE INTERNATIONALIZE UNQUOTE PROBLEM IS VIA UN ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL. BERGUS

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